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WATFORD C.L.P. invites applications for the post of full-time Secretary/Agent. The appointment will be made in accordance with the National Agreement, and application forms can be obtained from **Mr. R. A. E. Barton, 129 St. Albans Road, Watford**, to whom they must be returned by 21st October, 1950.

SOUTH NORFOLK C.L.P. invites applications for the post of full-time Agent. The appointment will be made in accordance with the National Agreement, and application forms can be obtained from **The Secretary, South Norfolk C.L.P., Church Street, Wymondham, Norfolk**, to whom they must be returned by 19th October, 1950.

SOUTHALL C.L.P.—Applications are invited for the post of full-time Agent. Salary and conditions in accordance with National Agreement. Application forms from **Alderman Fred Gardner, Labour Party Office, 73 The Broadway, Southall, Middlesex**, to be returned not later than Saturday, 21st October, 1950.

PENRITH & BORDER C.L.P.—Applications are invited for the post of full-time Secretary/Agent (Rural Constituency). Salary and conditions in accordance with the National Agreement, and appointment in consultation with the N.E.C. Application forms may be obtained from **Mr. M. Gibbons, 14 Kirkland Avenue, Wigton, Cumberland**, to whom they should be returned not later than 31st October, 1950.

SOUTH DORSET C.L.P. invite applications for the post of full-time Agent. The appointment to be made in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from **Mr. S. V. Porter, Labour Offices, 9 Market Street, Weymouth**, to whom they must be returned not later than 28th October, 1950.

BANBURY C.L.P. invites applications for the post of Secretary-Agent. The appointment will be made in accordance with the National Agreement, and application forms can be obtained from **Mr. L. C. Walklett, Trades and Labour Club, 32 West Bar, Banbury, Oxon.**, to whom they must be returned by the 25th October.

NORWOOD C.L.P. invites applications for the post of full-time Secretary/Agent (new position). The appointment will be made in accordance with the National Agreement, and application forms can be obtained from **Alderman W. R. Knight, 88 Beechdale Road, Brixton Hill, London, S.W.1**, to whom they must be returned by 7th November, 1950.

WESTMORLAND C.L.P.—Applications are invited for the post of full-time Agent. Salary and conditions in accordance with National Agreement. Application forms may be obtained from **Mr. H. Cooke, Labour Hall, Blackhall Yard, Kendal, Westmorland**, to whom they must be returned not later than 28th October, 1950.

DULWICH C.L.P., invites applications for the post of full time Agent. The appointment will be made in accordance with the National Agreement, and application forms can be obtained from **Mr. H. Lambourne, 145 East Dulwich Grove, London, S.E.22**, to whom they must be returned by the 28th October, 1950.

EAST HAM NORTH C.L.P., invites applications for the post of full time Agent. The appointment will be made in accordance with the National Agreement, and application forms can be obtained from **Mr. G. A. Hill, 120 Halley Road, Forest Gate, London, E.7**, to whom they must be returned by the 28th October, 1950.

THE LABOUR PARTY. — Applications are invited for the post of **Woman Organiser for the Southern Region**. The Woman Organiser is responsible for the organisation of women within the Region and supervises the work of Women's Sections, Advisory Councils, etc.—Application Forms and information as to conditions of appointment from **Chief Woman Officer, Labour Party, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1**, to whom Application Forms must be returned by November 1.

THE LABOUR PARTY. — Applications are invited for the post of **Woman Organiser for Wales**. The Woman Organiser is responsible for the organisation of women in Wales and supervises the work of Women's Sections, Advisory Councils, etc.—Application Forms and information as to conditions of appointment from **Chief Woman Officer, Labour Party, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1**, to whom Application Forms must be returned by November 1.

THE LABOUR PARTY

*Applications are invited
for the post of*

DISTRICT ORGANISER for SCOTLAND

Forms of application and particulars to be obtained from the National Agent, Labour Party, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1 to whom completed form must be returned by 31st October, 1950

A Caravan Advice Centre

By HENRY SOLOMONS, Hon. Secretary, South Hammersmith Labour Party

MOST MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT hold periodical 'surgeries' at their local Headquarters, or at convenient centres in their Divisions, but, in South Hammersmith, the Advice Service is taken right to the doorsteps of the electors.

Some time ago, the South Hammersmith Labour Party decided that, in addition to their Member, Tom Williams, visiting people and talking to them at their doors in the ordinary way, an opportunity should be given for his constituents to discuss with him their personal problems in privacy without having to go all the way across the Borough to the Party Rooms and wait, often for an hour or more, to see him.

They decided to conduct an Advice Service on the streets, yet with all the advantages of a private interview and, with this end in view, purchased a caravan chassis. Funds for this purpose were raised by means of interest-free loans from a number of Party Members. (Incident-

ally, these loans have now been repaid and the resultant mobile caravan-office has been placed at the disposal of the Party.)

Based mainly on ideas contributed by the Agent, Bert Biggs, a specially-designed body was built by a 'chippy' Party Member and what looked like an ordinary brightly-painted caravan-trailer, but with panels designed to take double-crown posters, was erected on the chassis. The interior was fitted with a table and forms, lockers for literature and fittings to take files and records. The trailer was not itself fitted with public address equipment; this was fitted to the attendant towing-car in the usual way, so that the car could be used for meetings independently of the trailer.

The mobile office was used on a number of occasions when the M.P. was available and was also loaned to the North Kensington Party for their L.C.C. by-election and to the Brentford and Chiswick Party in

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Invasion of the Villages

By ERIC LINFIELD, Cambridge University Labour Club Committee

WHEN OUR COMMITTEE received a request for assistance in canvassing campaigns this summer, we decided to form four groups and I was put in charge of the Cambridge Long Vacation group. This consisted of a small band of volunteers who happened to be in Cambridge for the six weeks long vacation term and could spare a few hours each week from their studies.

We planned our campaign in conjunction with the Regional Organiser and decided to concentrate mainly on our nearest Constituency, Cambridgeshire, with a few visits to the Isle of Ely and Huntingdonshire. Our method was roughly this—to canvass a village or group of villages in the afternoon and announce a meeting on the village green in the same evening, when we would supply speakers to supplement the local Party speakers, including occasionally the Prospective Candidate.

Impressions and Suggestions

Now that the campaigning is over, I would like to record some of my impressions and suggestions to assist any folk who may be carrying out such campaigns in the future.

In comparing villages one cannot make broad and sweeping generalisations, but these considerations seem important:—

- (1) In any village where there is an active Trades Union organisation, or some Trades Union members, the chances of starting a Local Labour Party seem more promising. In fact, as I have always believed, and this fits the pattern of the peculiar history of the British Labour Movement—political consciousness follows Trades Union organisation.
- (2) The feudal village is not dead. At a recent Cambridgeshire village meeting the local squire was heard firing off his shot gun to detract attention from our speakers, and he subsequently appeared to heckle them.
- (3) Although many of our supporters in rural areas are still prepared to listen to the success story of Five Years of Labour administration the “gospel” of Socialism as a way of life still needs teaching and preaching.

- (4) The different responses which we found in door-to-door canvassing illustrated the importance of an individual personal approach. If we had a pool of regular door-to-door “visitors” to go and talk over problems with our village supporters, the Labour Party visit would become one of the most important sources of village interest.
- (5) University speakers are needed and public speaking courses rather than concentration on Union debates might help those like myself, who are only interested really in spreading the Socialist gospel, rather than becoming successful parliamentarians.

Enjoyment and Profit

In the space of a single page article, one cannot do justice to all the lessons which we have learned from our campaign. Finally, we wish to thank all those people who have assisted us and in particular Mr. Garnett, the Assistant Regional Organiser, Mr. Leslie Bridges, the Cambridge Agent and the whole propaganda Committee of the Cambridgeshire Party, in particular Mr. John Smith.

Lastly, you are probably thinking of results. This will depend upon the follow-up meetings in the Autumn for forming local parties and similarly, although we have made members in places where a local party already exists, with membership increases; I hope that this Clarion idea will catch on more widely—we have enjoyed doing it and we have all profited by it.

In a subsequent issue Mr. Linfield will contribute a further article in which he will expand some of the points which he has raised here. He will also describe what were the reactions in the villages which he and his team visited to this campaign and the final results which were assessed during the Autumn follow-up meetings. Similar campaigns have been held in other parts of the country and readers there who took some active part are invited to contribute their ideas and suggestions.—EDITOR.

Canvassing Requires Skill

Says DEREK AGNEW

JONES EASED HIMSELF into the softest chair, brushed aside a lingering raindrop that ran tantalisingly down his nose, and sighed with relief as the familiar surroundings assured him the ordeal was over.

'Never again,' he panted, as Mrs. J. bustled to and fro making coffee. 'Never again.' (And Jones had a way of saying it that assured the listener that it really was . . . never again.)

The good wife kept silent. This was everything she had expected—and more besides. Jones's sufferings were just deserts for his wild ideas . . . and at his age too!

But let's go back a few hours, to that happier Jones. Here he comes, bounding down the road, a picture of health. Who would have guessed Jones has just finished a hard day at the office? Once indoors, food cannot come fast enough, or cool enough, for this man among men. One can almost see his feet twitching under the table—one can definitely see Mrs. J. shake a sorrowful head.

Initiation

What's wrong with the Jones household? Nothing really, it's just that to-night is a big occasion for its head. To-night he is being initiated into the mysterious art of canvassing. Jones's eyes gleam as he dashes for his coat. No 'six-bob-a-year socialist' he, oh no, to-night, to-night, he tilts a lance for the cause . . .

Jones is half-way down the street before he remembers his weapons. 'I'm in a hurry,' he screams as he tears a page from a terrified Jones Junior's exercise book, snatches a pencil stub, and runs out again. But wait a minute, Jones, where are you going? The thought also strikes our hero . . . and he slows to a gallop.

An hour later we find him back in his own street. In the meantime he has been to the Secretary's house, discovered no one was at home, canvassed half-a-dozen houses in Selby-avenue before learning it had been canvassed a month previously, and stopped for a cup of tea in a friend's house.

It is growing dark as Jones makes his next strike. He fumbles with the gate for some minutes before finally mastering a new-type patent catch, walks off the path on to a flower-bed on his way to the door,

and gropes irritably for the bell-push as the first drops of rain start falling.

But take heart, Jones, take heart—you've made a new member. Full well Jones knows it as he places his piece of paper against the door, breaks the pencil point, and stands holding the door against the driving rain as a none-too-happy new convert goes searching for a penknife.

During the next hour Jones grows increasingly determined to never again be more than a 'six-bob socialist'. He makes no more members, is led into long and fruitless arguments, becomes embarrassed when approaching his neighbours, is shouted at for leaving gates open, reviled for waking children, breaks his pencil again, finds it impossible to write on the, by now, wet notepaper, and gets soaked with rain.

Who can blame the shadow of a man that was for his fervent 'never again'?

We are always finding Jones's in the Labour Movement, and the people to blame are the experienced officers. By our thoughtlessness, our assumption that the hitherto 'six-bob socialist' knows the tricks of canvassing, we daily frighten away prospective active workers.

Points to Remember

Next time you organise a canvass, give your workers clear instructions and advice. A register of the street they are to canvass, some membership forms, and a strong notebook. Advise them to carry several soft pencils (or, preferably, a ball-point pen), a torch, and to dress according to the weather. Tell your canvasser to be meticulous about closing gates behind him, *not* knocking like a police constable, finishing at a reasonable hour, and being courteous and friendly (*always* 'Good evening, Mr. Brown' or 'Good evening, sir').

Come to the point quickly, don't argue or be drawn into long conversations, and if you promise to call later with the answer to a particular point, don't forget to do so. With many members it will also be an advantage to send them to areas where they are not known, they are often shy of canvassing their neighbours.

In short, treat canvassing as the art it is—and cut out the slovenly approach.

County Constituency Organisation

By KEN FORBES, Secretary-Agent, Pembrokeshire C.L.P.

EARLY POTATO SETTING and lifting, hay-making and harvesting are three incidents which never beset the organisation of Borough and City C.L.P.s. In a large rural county like Pembrokeshire these are very real problems and from April until late September great difficulty is experienced in getting any work of a political nature done in such areas.

To call a meeting at any time in the period mentioned is to invite a flop. Therefore we are left with the only alternative—work on the doorsteps. To keep interest going L.L.P.s must campaign from door to door, and in the areas where no parties exist, the Agent must pay frequent visits to his contacts keeping them in touch with the trend of events locally in the county.

That is the problem in the summer, winter has its problems too. In rural areas there is no, or at best inadequate, public transport, no street lighting, and many members live considerable distances from the meeting place, usually the school or village hall. In spite of such drawbacks one finds that very often small L.L.P.s in the country embark on the most ambitious of programmes for the winter months.

Organising L.L.P.s

In a rural area the job of forming local parties is not an easy one, but when a party is formed one cannot help deriving a lot of satisfaction from the effort. I have made as many as four or five visits to one village to get a handful of supporters who are willing to form the nucleus of a party. It is most important to ensure that the leaders in the Local Party are people who command the respect of the majority of the village. I have had the experience of a local party failing to function because just one of the officers was not popular locally. This has taught me to be very careful in the encouraging of such people into official positions.

The procedure which I usually adopt in forming a L.L.P. is to visit the contacts in the area, give them an Electoral Register to mark off known supporters and then arrange a meeting. A personal invitation is sent to each supporter and additional publicity is given to the meeting to attract any other interested people whose views may not be quite so well known as those invited.

The Agent must, of course, attend the meeting and explain the functions of L.L.P. and its relationship and obligation to the C.L.P. He should then assist them to elect their officers and afterward suggest the many ways in which new members' interest can be maintained. It is always useful to have a private talk with the officers after the meeting to ensure that they are fully aware of their individual responsibilities.

Periodically, tours should be made of an area, visiting the officers of the L.L.P.s enquiring how things are going with the Party and if they require any help on any particular matter. This eliminates the danger of an L.L.P. feeling it is being neglected by the Constituency Party.

Establishing Contacts

Very often in a county constituency there are places too small for the formation of an L.L.P. It is in such places that one encounters difficulty at election time. At the last election there were some places that, try as I might, I could find no one willing to come out in the open and help us. Needless to say the opposition had no difficulty in such places as, strange as it may seem to many people, the power of the squire is still in existence.

Much can be done towards solving this problem by contacting the different affiliated trade unions and asking them to give the names and addresses of members who live in the 'sticky' places. Incidentally, by making himself interested in the trade union branches an Agent can ensure that the maximum amount of co-operation is always readily available.

Keeping in Touch

For an Agent in a county to keep his finger continually on the political pulse of the whole district is almost impossible without personal investigation and first-hand information from those who work for the Movement in the different areas.

With the object of assisting and advising in district organisation it is advisable to appoint a Campaign Committee whose function it is to meet and discuss organisational problems. The committee is made up of members who know their own areas backwards and this enables the Agent to know precisely how things are politically in every part of the county.

Getting Together On An 'Outing'

By WALTER A. WHITE

'ALL WORK AND NO PLAY' is a saying which, although trite, is very true, and organisations both large and small should realise that often the simplest of pleasures bring the happiest of recollections.

Organisers who pride themselves on their super dances, field days, and fêtes, will do well to remember that sometimes lying close to hand is the secret of, perhaps, that 'Great Day', and remembering that people love crowds and variety try and get out of the run of the everyday fêtes or field days.

Always near to every centre of population lies an attraction capable of holding large crowds where everyone can meet with the minimum of expenditure (for cost must be considered in all things) and where they can enjoy a day together which will be of benefit both to themselves and the organisation to which they belong.

Simple Organisation

The planning of such outings can be of the simplest, if one insists on simplicity in organisation and does not cloud the issue and the day with complex lists and details. Organisationally the matter can be arranged between different Parties living in different districts or between different wards living in the same constituency.

The ideal organisation is of course one where the ward is divided up with a representative of the party in each street, working under an area organiser whose area will be the polling district, he in turn answering to the social secretary in the matter of social events, or the ward organiser in other cases. Having, through canvassing, decided on the number of people interested, travelling accommodation can then be arranged.

The fare is worked out on a basis of cost of transport divided by the number of people travelling. If an entrance fee is required to wherever the party is going, this can be added, but it is sound reasoning to let people pay their own entrance fee, thus making the initial payment lower—a feature which will attract many families—although it must be made clear to everyone from the start what costs are entailed. In the summer time the practice of taking picnic baskets is one that is

paramount among the large families and certainly lessens the cost of the outing to individual pockets.

Thus there are several schemes available to each party.

- (1) Transport only—members paying own entrance fee and taking picnic baskets.
- (2) Transport and admission fee to be paid.
- (3) Transport, admission, and a meal being all included in the outing.

It will be necessary to notify the authorities of the expected arrival in the case of admission-charging authorities, for their arrangements as to car parking and cheap entrance rates for bulk admissions, also if arrangements are to be made for meals to be had at the place of meeting.

Having decided on the number of people travelling, parties should be divided into smaller groups under the leadership of one person whose job will be to see that all are present for the start and return home.

Function of Social Secretary

It is a secret of sound organisation to impress on the leaders the principle of quiet and smooth control. People like being told, but object to shouted commands. This can easily be managed by supplying each leader with a list of the persons travelling with him and making him fully responsible. In the same way each family will travel best as a family unit. The collection of the cost from the travellers in some cases can best be handled on the instalment plan. This method will ensure weekly contact with those who would otherwise not be seen except at election time, but a Social Secretary is failing in his duty if he has not evolved a system of contacting his members at least every fortnight.

The planning of the complete day from the arrival of all the excursionists to the programme intended can best be drawn up by all the officials of the parties taking part in the outing. The usual sporting events should be included; people out for a day still like the old evergreens, and a great feeling of comradeship can soon be built up with the inclusion of a few choruses.

Celebrations in Aberavon

By W. H. VAUGHAN, O.B.E., J.P., General Secretary, Aberavon C.L.P.

THE NAME OF ABERAVON is famous in the political history of this country. It was the Division which accepted Ramsay MacDonald when he was the most despised and rejected of men. In 1922 we returned him to Parliament and in 1923 he became Labour's first Prime Minister.

This year the Division intends celebrating our Party's fiftieth anniversary by producing a Pageant Programme on two nights in one of the large halls of Port Talbot.

Past and Present

In twelve scenes, the Pageant will depict the Movement's growth over 50 years, including some of the more outstanding events which went before and which we cherish as early landmarks in the Working Class Movement. The Tolpuddle Martyrs have a place in the Initiation Ceremony and will be acted in character. The trial of John Frost following the Chartist Rising in Monmouth. Dic Penderyn, of the Merthyr Riots, who incidentally, is buried in the churchyard of St. Mary's Church, Aberavon. And so to contemporary history and the trials and difficulties of the 20's and 30's in South Wales, the Hunger Marches, the struggle to live, all will be graphically portrayed.

We are not wholly concerned with the past, however, important as it is to bear witness to it. The present is important and in dealing with conditions to-day we shall make clear by word and act what Labour has accomplished since taking office.

About the future, which is perhaps most important of all. The future will be depicted, as we visualise it, by a ballet performed by young and able people of the Labour Party who have made a study of this particular medium. Directing this we have an extremely able producer in Leo Lloyd, who is well known as a dramatic producer and critic, possessing a wonderful conception of what can be done with ballet.

This is an all-Labour effort. The script has been prepared almost exclusively by Miss Ismay Hill, the Welsh Woman Organiser, assisted by Leo Lloyd. We shall have a mixed choir of some 100 voices—all our own people—conducted by one of the best choirmasters in Wales, Tom Roblin, a schoolmaster and a Labour stalwart.

To me has fallen the enjoyable task of organising our Pageant and also of producing a Souvenir Programme running to some 15 pages.

It so happens that this celebration of our Movement's Jubilee coincides with our own Member, Billy Cove, completing his 21st year as M.P. for the Division. It is his coming-of-age as it were, and we shall suitably recognise this fact.

In this Souvenir Programme we shall be telling the story of this Division's political battles from 1918 to 1950. What a story!

That Election in 1918 with Bob Williams as our candidate. We were heavily defeated, polling 7,758 votes. In 1922, however, with MacDonald we almost doubled that vote and won the seat. We went through the 1923 and 1924 elections improving our vote on each occasion. By 1929 MacDonald had gone to Seaham and Bill Cove was our candidate. He polled 5,000 more votes than we recorded in 1924. Then 1931. That Election, which we shall always remember because of its many bitternesses.

Let us remind ourselves again what happened then. In 1929 we sent back to Westminster 287 members. In 1931 only 46. All over the country the electorate and our own people were perplexed and confused and this showed itself by the results. But not here in Aberavon. And, in my view, 1931 revealed more than anything else how truly great this Division is. We not only held the seat—but actually increased our vote.

Source of Strength

And let us shout it to the skies. In 1950 our majority was three times the number of actual votes we had in 1918. So there will be joy and immense interest in the telling of this epic.

It could only be done by the unstinted loyalty and faith of ordinary men and women within our ranks. And I trust they will drink deep draughts of satisfaction and delight when we fittingly celebrate not only the Movement's Jubilee—but their own local achievements as well.

With such a history it stands to reason that we in Aberavon have learned much over the years. There are many factors, I believe, in which younger, less experienced parties could gain tips and information from a party such as ours. In the space

of one article it would be impossible to relate all that the experience of years has given us, but there is one very important point which I would like to mention, namely, how to hold successful, well-attended meetings

The season of indoor public meetings is with us again. Looking back, I think that we in this Division have rarely failed in getting good attendances at meetings which we have organised.

Good Results Are No Accident

Such results have not been accidental. To ensure that meetings prove successful, much initiative and resourcefulness are called for. We have found that to rely on 'any old method' is fatal, and that it is deadly fatal to allow failure to follow failure. This business of procuring a speaker then leaving things to chance is simply rendering a disservice to the speaker, to the Movement and, most deadly of all, to those members of the public who have turned up to form an audience.

A resourceful organiser can only turn failure into success by studying why his meetings are poorly attended, then endeavouring with all the wit and organisation at his command to correct such faults immediately.

The person who thinks he knows it all is a 'fool'. He becomes smug and complacent, and those whom he serves will soon get tired of him. Having trotted out those little pieces of simple philosophy, let us get on with the job of trying to guarantee how to get good public meetings.

Constituencies, of course, differ in character. There are the rural and the industrial. Ours is industrial in the main, and I would not presume to suggest what rural areas do in this respect. There is an extremely difficult problem. It is important to realise that differences can arise within a constituency itself. There is the village and also the greater built-up town. Both call for different treatment in the advertising of meetings.

Take the mining village of two to three thousand people. Here is a community which is compact; which works out its own salvation by way of community consciousness. What do we do in a case like this?

We have a dozen or so small window-bills printed; plus about 500 tickets. We charge just a nominal sum of 3d. per ticket; because we have found from experience that if a person pays for something it is valued more than if the ticket was free. A person who takes a ticket is a

potential advertiser for your meeting. He or she talks about it, making others interested.

The small posters are placed in house-windows of comrades whose homes are in vantage places. People are more attracted to a bill in a house window than on hoardings or in shops. Just try this out, you will see how successful it is.

If you are fortunate in having a loud-speaker apparatus, a run round town on the morning of the meeting will serve as a last minute reminder.

It is essential to bear constantly in mind the fact that to-day we are catering for a people who, in the main, do not, unlike their father and mothers and the older members of the community, feel that a public meeting is an event in their lives. The age of speed and multifarious diversions have removed this outlook from the social scene.

The successful organiser does, however, make his meetings appear that they really are events, despite all the competing demands on the time and interest of the people.

Small towns call for a different approach. Here it is necessary to beat the big drum all the time in some form or other.

Big posters are still successful, up to a point, but they are expensive and lose much of their appeal when placed on hoardings surrounded by cinema and commercial advertisements. In small towns, too, make full use of the window poster.

Use them if possible in those houses situated near a factory, workshop or shopping centre where many people are continually passing by. In small towns too use that loudspeaker as much as possible. It is quite amazing how people are attracted to anything said through a loudspeaker.

Use The Local Press

The local newspaper too: most certainly never forget this medium of publicity. Get into the editor's hands in good time a comprehensive write-up of your speaker, what he specialises in, and indicate if possible something special he may have done recently. This catches the imagination of the people.

Meetings can also be made more attractive by introducing items of music (either by children's or adult choirs) into the programme. This is particularly effective in the villages.

These rather scrappy suggestions by no means complete the picture, but they have helped in making our meetings-record an enviable one.

PROBLEMS FACI

THE YEAR BEHIND US has been one of frustration, in that almost throughout the whole period, we have been in that state of mind, of uncertainty and anticipation. First in not knowing when the last election was coming, and consequent upon the result, finding ourselves again waiting day by day for a possible announcement.

This state of uncertainty has hamstrung the work of the Union this year considerably, leaving us in no position to plan for the future of Agency service. Meetings of the Adjustments Board have not been regular, and questions like the Preston resolution referred to the Executive from the last annual conference of this Union, obviously could not be given the merited consideration it requires, by the N.E.C. of the Party and members of the Adjustments Board. Politics is the most merciless and the most insecure of all professions. Parliament may give 'Social Security' to the nation, but the nation gives no security to politicians and party agents, and the principle behind the Preston resolution is that of security of tenure for practising agents.

It is readily appreciated that the present income of the Party from all sources will not provide for implementation of the idea behind the resolution. The return of a Labour Government in 1945, and again this year, has brought greater responsibilities upon all who support it, both as individuals and as organisations. We are told that heavy demands have been made upon the political funds of the Trade Union movement, and that many of these funds are bankrupt. That we know to be the case, but side by side with that, we know that many trade unions are building up huge funds and have greater membership than ever before. Five years of Labour Government have been responsible for minimising much of the industrial unrest of the past, and by and large, the trade unions of this country have had an easy passage since 1945. Heavy demands upon the trade union funds by way of litigation, in contesting claims for accidents in industry by insurance companies, is almost a thing of the past, since the advent of the "Industrial Injuries

Act", and we are entitled to say to the Trade Union Movement; yes—and the Co-operative Movement—you must accept greater responsibility financially for the political work of our movement, if we are in any way to compete with our chief opponents—the Tory Party.

To measure up to political responsibilities, the sum allocated from the full resources of most trade unions for political purposes is totally inadequate. Trade unions are not affiliating to the Party on the full strength of their membership contracted in. Changes of rule are probably necessary, but a new approach to this problem is long overdue. The best investment for trade unions is the maintenance of a Labour Government, for if we

*We reprint here the Chair
the 33rd Annual Conference
Organisers and Election Agents*

fail the consequences to funds and membership will be disastrous—too late to have failed, with 52 millions in the funds of the trade unions untouchable for political purposes.

One of the greatest experiments now proceeding within the Trade Union Movement is that of Joint Consultation in industry. By a process of 'trial and error' practical application of theories long held in the Party on the participation of workmen in the running of industries in which they earn their living, are being worked out. Many employers still have a limited conception of what is meant by 'Joint consultation', but that at least should not apply to the N.E.C. of the Party. I am prompted to ask if at times the National Union of Labour Organisers and Election Agents might not be consulted more frequently in the smooth running of our industry. It is true that we meet with members of the N.E.C. on the Adjustments Board, but seldom do we discuss anything other than matters affecting the livelihood of Agents, their rights in society, and general conditions of service.

AGENTS' UNION

Agents in their respective constituencies have their noses closer to the ground than any other Party member, and occasional meetings such as are held from time to time with regional officers might prove to be useful.

Our efforts in claiming the same rights as Members of Parliament and Candidates at the annual conference of the Party have proved abortive. There are occasions at Party conferences, when useful contributions to matters under consideration (especially that of organisation) could be made by practising Agents, and no sound reason has been advanced to date for the denial of equal rights with M.P.s and Candidates.

None better than the Party Agent to

*Address, Mr. Dai Cousins, to
National Union of Labour
at Cliftonville on Saturday,
ber*

interpret the mind and temper of the voter, who is constantly in touch with the dark and light shade of opinion, that went to make up the 13¼ million votes registered for Labour in February.

It would be a mistake to 'kid' ourselves that the total vote was representative of satisfaction in Labour's performance, but it is a political fact of reaching significance that one half of the nation is satisfied that the economic and social policy of the Party is a better thing than the alternative policy of anti-Labour parties, and our first concern must be to maintain the confidence of those 13¼ million. The one thing that would be fatal for the Party, would be for our key workers to lose confidence. It must be our concern to improve on the Labour vote of February, and to be sure, that the vote registers belief in the Party, not that thousands are voting Labour because there is no alternative:

We know the answers, education and organisation. But confidence will not be gained by those things only. What is more convincing is practice and example.

The trade unions are knocking at the door, pressing their claims for wage increases. However right the policy may be, we must acknowledge that the many trade unions carrying membership of thousands of family men taking home wage packets of less than £5 per week, have been tremendously loyal to the Party and the Government in face of mounting profits in private industry. The loyalty of those good comrades must not be strained too much. Early practical steps to tackle high profits and distributive costs would go a long way to satisfy the worker in industry. Even though compulsory curtailment of profits may have no significant bearing on wage claims, the psychological effect upon the worker would be tremendous, and the case for resisting wage claims made much easier.

Unlike other unions, our problems are not how to recruit.

Indeed, from time to time we refuse applications for membership from those who work for the Party voluntarily or are on some basis of payment foreign to the Agents' Charter.

Nevertheless, your Executive is conscious that within our ranks there are those who may not qualify to be good trade unionists in all senses of the word. That we regret—for Agents in this respect should be shining examples to the rest of their membership. Indeed we are expected to be the living examples in all spheres of Party activity.

Let me appeal to those who are dilatory about their payments, who may not at all times take their stand for trade union principles and decisions, to make amends now, and resolve in this, our year of celebrating the half-century of the Party, to become better trade unionists.

Finally, I wish to publicly announce my very warm appreciation of the way your Executive has conducted itself during my term of office, and to thank our Secretary for his very valuable work on behalf of this Union. His reports and memorandums from time to time are a work of art, and I hope thoroughly appreciated by all members of this Union.

We Don't Chew Straws

Says RICHARD KNOWLES, Secretary-Agent, Sevenoaks C.L.P.

AS A RECENTLY-APPOINTED Agent I would be the last person to try, even to attempt teaching those who have had many years' experience the best way in which to go about the job, but in one respect I do consider myself as having quite unique experience and a background perhaps not too common in Labour organisation.

I am a countryman, the son of a small farmer, have worked all my life in rural areas and consider that I do know country people.

No Implications Please

First, I would warn those who have not previously had experience of a rural constituency to beware of the great danger of lumping all such divisions together, sometimes as 'backward', sometimes as 'rural', with a faintly implied suggestion that the General Management Committee all wear breeches and leggings and walk about chewing straws.

All constituencies differ the one from the other, but my point here is that there are many differences even within each constituency, and that what is good technique in one local party may not work so successfully in the next village.

Take my own constituency as an example. At one end, Malling East, it is mainly industrial, with Party membership rising rapidly, a strong League of Youth, a Labour County Councillor, six R.D.C. Labour seats in the 11 villages; on the whole a good Labour area.

In the middle, Malling West, a small country market town (electorate 1,700) surrounded by a collection of little villages still just emerging from a feudal background, but with Party membership rising steadily.

Sevenoaks Town, a typical dormitory town with an electorate of 11,000, one end of which could be described as rural, but containing an H.M. Ministry Depot to complicate matters, and then the great straggling Sevenoaks Rural South, the ground of which has, as yet, rarely been trod by Labour footsteps.

Here is a true story about the last-named area. We have a local party in a large village containing some 2,600 electors, and Party membership (in the words of the Secretary): 'Somewhere erbout 18'. We

decided to take a canvass team into this desolation for a membership drive; we call them 'Working Parties' to distinguish them from the 'Talkers'. On our way we called on the Secretary to collect the canvass record which he had from the General Election: I had tried to get them on three previous occasions but the Secretary had always been out. This time we were lucky, he was at home. After 15 minutes fruitless searching, light suddenly dawned on him. 'Ah', he said, 'I remembers, me an' the Chairman done that bit, an' it was that dark that we couldn't fill in the names, but only put the crosses, an' when I got 'ome it cum to me like, an' I ses to 'im, "These 'ere ain't much good to us, mate", so we chucked 'em on the fire.' I don't know how we kept a straight face.

We have that Party on our list for reformation; to be carried out as follows. I shall first get the canvass records, those bearing names as well as the 'crosses', sort out those of the Labour supporters, and compile road lists for a Working Party. On a Saturday afternoon we will arrive with membership forms and receipts for 6d., getting all possibles to join, collecting the first 6d. subscription. On the following day new members will be checked off and cards issued. As the Working Party canvass for members, they also look out for likely collectors, secretaries, and others who could fill some office, or play an active part. Repeat this treatment until a membership of 80/100 has been reached, then with this number enrolled we will call a meeting by circular letter, and at this meeting elect the officers, the Executive Committee, and the collectors.

Appoint Local Men

It is very essential that this be done at the first meeting. Agents should avoid leaving such new parties 'high and dry' but give the Secretary every assistance, and attend the first two meetings, remembering not to interfere with the actual running of the meeting unless procedure is going haywire. One further point: we do not put too many members on each collection book; 20 are sufficient in a country district, 10 much better. I have

(Continued on page 16)

New Electoral Regulations

R.P. (England) Regulations 1950 No. 1254

R.P. (Scotland) Regulations 1950 No. 1250 (S.88)

R.P. (N. Ireland) Regulations 1950 No. 1255

All came into operation July 30, 1950 and cancel the previous 1949 Regulations.

The price per copy of the new Electoral Regulations is 1s. net from H.M. Stationery Offices: York House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 13a Castle Street, Edinburgh, 2; 39 King Street, Manchester, 2; 2 Edmund Street, Birmingham, 3; 1 St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff; Tower Lane, Bristol, 1; 80 Chichester Street, Belfast, or through any bookseller.

Changes in the new Regulations are, in brief, as follows:—

Young Voters

Reg. 4 (3), Scot. 5 (3).—Names of new young people added to Register shall be marked with a letter Y. This indicates they can vote at any election from October 2nd onwards.

Adaptation of Register

Reg. 23, Scot. 22.—An amendment which allows the Secretary of State to direct a local authority to adapt the Register to any polling districts under Section 11 (4).

Latest Time for A.V. Applications

Regs. 25, 28, 30, 32, Scot. 24, 27, 29, 31 provide that applications to be treated as an Absent Voter or to appoint a Proxy *shall* be disregarded if received by the R.O. after the last day for nominations. He retains a discretion to allow later applications by election staff and police constables.

Electoral Number on A.V. Ballot Papers

Regs. 26, 33, 41, Scot. 25, 32, 40 provide that the electoral number shall be marked on the counterfoils of Absent Voters' ballot papers in place of the consecutive numbers in the lists hitherto used.

Opening of A.V. Ballot Boxes

Reg. 48 provides that a postal voters' ballot box may be opened before the close of the poll so long as at least one box is kept unopened until then for the reception of postal votes.

Appeal against Registration Decision

Reg. 62, Scot. 61 (1).—Fourteen days instead of five days are allowed for giving notice of appeal against R.O.'s decision on claims and objections.

Blind Voters

First Schedule, Form Q (R.P.F. 7) has been amended to secure that a blind person in England need not obtain a medical certificate if registered as a blind person. In Scotland to be signed by officer keeping the Register of Blind Persons, or doctor.

Changes in Forms

Form T of the old Regulations has been changed to Form U (there was no Form U previously), and Form T is now a new one for the part deleted from Form Q in respect of air or sea journey from home address. Form Q now relates solely to occupation, blindness, and physical incapacity.

Other minor and consequential changes in drafting occur in various paragraphs.

Codification of Forms

D — R.P.F. 4

J — F/Vote/33

K — F/Vote/34

L — Estavote

M — Estasuffrage

N — F/Vote/35

O — R.P.F. 5

P — R.P.F. 6

Q — R.P.F. 7

R — R.P.F. 8

S — R.P.F. 9

T — R.P.F. 7a

U — R.P.F. 10

V — R.P.F. 11

ELECTORAL REGISTERS ACT, 1949

(Price 4d. net. H.M. Stationery Offices)

Abolishes the autumn register and provides for one annual register to be published not later than March 15 in each year.

Provides that young persons who will attain the age of 21 years between the qualifying date and the subsequent June 15 can be entered in the Form A delivered by the R.O. to Householders in connection with the registration inquiry and canvass. Such persons' names will be included in the Register, prefixed by the letter Y, and they will be entitled to vote at any election from October 2 onwards while the register remains in force.

Keeping The Files Straight

By MARGARET BREWER, Secretary, Acton Labour Party

I HAVE YET to meet the Agent who could sit back and say: 'I've got nothing to do; everything is up to date.' But if I were to encounter such a paragon, I am sure he would qualify his remark by adding: 'Except the filing, of course.'

Getting the filing done is a job which haunts us all, and although I have not solved the problem, I have worked out a simple system which does work and is based on the principle that the art of good filing is to find it again!

Filing by Meetings

The bulk of my filing is done not under subjects, which is the usual method, but under meetings.

After all, practically all correspondence goes either to the Executive or General Committee meetings and it is at those meetings where the action is decided upon which causes Agents to mutter under their breath and burn the midnight oil writing scores of letters and sending copies of resolutions to every Ministry in Whitehall. All this can be filed in one action, by taking the correspondence and resolutions which have been submitted to the meeting, together with your copies of the letters which you have written in response, placing a sheet of paper in front marked 'G.C. 11 Oct. 50,' clipping the lot together and filing these bundles in a box file in date order.

When you wish to look up a letter, glance through your Minutes to see which meeting dealt with it. Having found the date, it is simple to extract the letter you want.

Not all correspondence goes to Party meetings though. There are the letters dealing simply with Ward affairs, or queries to Regional Office or arguments about affiliation fees, for which files are required.

I operate these files on a group system. *Group 1* are the Wards, sub-divided into 1/1—N.W. Ward, 1/2—N.E. Ward, 1/3—Central Ward, etc. *Group 2* deals with Head Office, 2/1—Secretary's Department, 2/2—National Agent's Department, 2/3—Research Department, etc. *Group 3*—Regional Office. *Group 4*—Trades Council

and Trade Unions. The number of groups you require will depend, of course, on the types of activities in your particular Party.

The advantage of the Grouping System is that it is quite easy to open new files in their appropriate section without having to re-number the entire set of files.

It is a good idea to devote one Group to Temporary Files, because it is better when organising, say, an Annual Outing or a special Public Meeting, to have all the correspondence relating to it in one file, rather than spread over two or three of your routine files. When the function is over, the temporary file can be closed, but the correspondence is there should you wish to refer to it again.

If you are in the fortunate position of starting a new filing system then cater for the largest correspondence you are likely to receive and buy foolscap rather than quarto-sized files. Stationers sell what they call File Folders in sets of five which cost about 10d. a set. These folders have tabs sticking out on which you can print in Indian ink the name and number of the file.

Keeping Up To Date

The filing system in your office must be one which you like, which is simple, and can be operated daily. Do not have a tray marked 'Filing', the contents of which mount steadily towards the ceiling and which you are going to clear 'One day when I've got the time.' Brother, that time never arrives. Decide on a system which you know you can cope with, and keep it up to date.

One final word about correspondence on which action is pending. Unless filed this will engulf the top of the Agent's desk until there is no space left on which to work. Obviously, though, this current correspondence must be kept separate from the other files. A set of folders marked 'Action', 'For Typing', 'Correspondence for next G.C. or E.C. Meeting', will cope with every contingency, and the Agent's dream of a clear desk will become a reality—at least until the next post arrives.

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Questions and Answers

Compiled by PAT CAVANAUGH, National Agents Department.

DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Q *One third of our Urban District Councillors retire every year. I understand that in certain Urban Districts the whole of the Council retire together every three years. Who decides whether there are to be annual or triennial elections and what is the procedure we must follow to have an alteration made?*

A A District Council (Urban or Rural) may, by resolution, request the County Council to grant permission for the retirement and election of all members of the District Council to take place in every third year. The resolution must be passed by not less than two-thirds of the members voting on the resolution. (Vide: Section 35, Local Government Act, 1933).

NO VALID NOMINATIONS

Q *At the last Borough Council Election only two nomination papers were handed in, both being subsequently declared invalid. One of the nomination papers was on behalf of the retiring councillor, and to our surprise, the Returning Officer declared him to be re-elected. Was this in order?*

A Yes. See L.G.A., 1933, Second Schedule, Section 9, paragraph 3(d) which reads as follows: 'If at any ordinary election no person is or remains validly nominated, the retiring councillors of the borough or ward as the case may be, shall be deemed to be elected.'

ELECTION OF ALDERMEN

Q *Our Mayor is also an Alderman. There is an aldermanic vacancy to be filled and I am wondering whether the Mayor can vote, providing he is not a candidate.*

A The Act says: 'Aldermen shall not, as such, vote at the election of an Alderman.' The words 'as such' appear to mean that an Alderman may vote if he is a member of the Council in some other capacity, for instance, an Alderman who is also Mayor. The Mayor, unless a candidate, will preside at the

meeting and apparently may give an original vote and also a casting vote, if necessary.

FULL AGE

Q *My son will be 21 on the 21st of November next. Will he be qualified as an elector when the next register is published?*

A In common law a person is of full age on the day prior to his 21st birthday. The qualifying date for the next register is November 20th and provided he has the other necessary qualifications, i.e. British subject, etc., his name should be on the register which comes into force on the 15th March, 1951, and entitled to vote from that date at any election.

CLOSE OF POLL

Q *At the last General Election several persons were actually in the Polling Station at 9 p.m., but were refused ballot papers. Should not the fact that they were in the Polling Station before the close of poll entitle them to vote?*

A It is the Presiding Officer's duty to close the Polling Station immediately at 9 p.m. and cease to issue any further ballot papers. Electors who have already received ballot papers should be given reasonable time to mark them and place them in the ballot box.

ATTENDANCE AT NOMINATIONS (PARLIAMENTARY)

Q *Who may attend at the handing in of nomination papers and who should hand in the papers?*

A The only persons entitled to attend at nominations are: persons assisting the Returning Officer, the candidate, his agent and the proposer and seconder appearing on the nomination paper to be delivered first. The nomination paper may be handed in by the candidate, his proposer or seconder.

NOTE. The Agent cannot hand in the nomination paper.

Disorderly Meetings

By GEORGE VAUGHAN, Barrister-at-Law

ACTUAL PHYSICAL EJECTION of a person or persons from a political meeting is a course of action to be resorted to only as a very last resort. The average Englishman is a constitutionalist to the very marrow and it is far better to put up with interruptions and barracking within limits, than to make any premature use of physical force.

After all, heckling and the pat answer from the platform are part of the fun for which some listeners attend political meetings and politicians should be the last to want to stamp it out.

In my own campaign in Orpington I recollect a worker remarking that he had overheard certain Tory ladies commenting that our meetings were much more fun than those of Sir Waldron Smithers, where everyone was so polite and dull!

Use of Reasonable Force

A chairman will sense, however, when interruption is being resented by the meeting and will appeal for fair play, giving a warning that he may have to exclude the offenders. If the disorder persists and the chairman is satisfied that ejection must be undertaken, then it should be carried out promptly and effectively, *using no more force than is reasonably necessary*.

This is most important. Any additional show of force is not only liable to alienate the sympathy of the audience but may lead to civil or criminal proceedings. Needless to say, the right persons must be ejected—actions for damages have been brought by innocent listeners who, in the uproar, were mistaken for the provokers of disorder.

If ejection is resisted, then a policeman may be invited to enter—for he cannot act unless a breach of the peace is apprehended, and a scuffle between ejectors and ejected would, in fact 'endanger the King's Peace'.

Sometimes confusion exists as to what is meant by a 'public meeting' and the rights of the public at such a meeting. Strictly speaking, a 'public meeting' is only such a meeting as is held in the open on some piece of public ground. A meeting held in a privately owned hall or even in a public building especially hired for the purpose is not a 'public' meeting.

Persons attending such meetings do so at the invitation of the conveners of the meeting, and, as soon as such invitation is withdrawn, they become trespassers and can be ejected by the use of such force as is reasonably necessary. Anyone who, at a public meeting, acts in a disorderly manner for the purpose of preventing the transaction of the business for which the meeting was called together is guilty of an offence under the Public Meeting Act, 1908.

Furthermore, if the offence is committed at a political meeting in any Parliamentary constituency between the issue of the writ and its return, i.e., during the actual 'election period', the offence is an 'illegal practice' within the meaning of the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Act, 1883.

It is not generally known that pressmen have a right by Act of Parliament to attend all bona fide public meetings. They have no right, however, to attend 'private' meetings—and, for this purpose, political meetings of a propagandist nature are 'private' meetings. It goes without saying, however, that the press should always be invited to attend and every facility afforded to them.

(Continued from page 12)

tried this as a method of starting new parties, reforming stagnant ones, and can vouch for its success.

In dormitory districts try to avoid domination of parties by 'intellectuals' who work all day in London or some other city or town, trying instead, to get the parties to elect a local man as Chairman. A local man will always carry more weight.

In our particular agricultural areas we do not worry about the farmers. We just do not have their support no matter what one may say or do, and it is much better to concentrate on the farm workers, where the real rural Labour vote is.

Finally, and above all, we try to avoid patronising, there is nothing a countryman hates more than a 'I have come down to show you how to do it' attitude. Listen to what they say, do not argue until facts prove them wrong.

A Caravan Advice Centre

Continued from page 3

this year's municipal elections, which did not affect South Hammersmith. The testing time of the idea came, however, this August, during the 'Socialist Week' that was held in our Division.

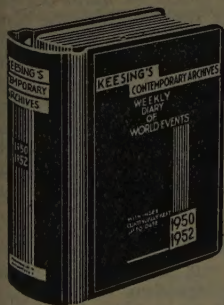
Some seventeen open-air meetings were held. The day prior to each, handbills were distributed from door to door in selected streets near the chosen sites. These announced that Mr. Tom Williams would be 'reporting-back to his constituents' and that he would be available after each short meeting for them to consult him privately in his mobile office should they so desire. At each meeting the Chairman repeated this and Tom Williams, after giving an account of his own work in particular and the Government's record in general, invited his listeners to see him one by one in the caravan. While he was speaking, canvassers were going from door to door in the surrounding streets, enrolling members and extending to them an invitation to see their M.P. on matters of doubt.

The success of this innovation was over-

whelming and surprising. In some streets there were actually queues of people waiting to be interviewed. In addition, a letter had been sent to those who had written him for appointments recently, asking them to meet him at his caravan in 'X' street at a particular time and again those who came were pleased that their Member was visiting them locally, instead of their having to go to the Party Rooms.

That this idea was a successful one is proved, too, by the fact that the South Hammersmith Labour Party, which numbered only 40 members in 1945, has made and broken this year four targets and now numbers over 2,000.

It might also be mentioned that the caravan is so designed that the inscription on the outside giving the name of the Party can be covered up by a board giving the name of any other Party locally which cares to hire it on reasonable terms and, too, that the interior is so laid out that, when not in use by the Party, the caravan can be converted for holiday purposes and is at the disposal of our Party Members in exchange for a donation to the funds.



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In The Vital Seats

By **WILLIAM ROYLE**, Prospective Parliamentary Candidate, Bodmin Division

IN THE WEEKS immediately after the last election a great many people enumerated reasons for the result, and almost everybody predicted that the Government would have to go to the country again in a matter of weeks. Yet the Labour Government of February 23rd plus has again maintained the dignity, and demanded the respect, associated with the English tradition, and that despite its slender majority. Without much doubt the reputation of the Labour Party and its leaders has been enhanced during the past six months.

The Vital Constituencies

But that does not mean that the battle of the next General Election is already won. It means that we in the far flung rural divisions have to make the necessary effort to translate what is happening on a national scale into something tangible in our own areas. It is the voice that counts. It is our job to see to it that this national reputation is reflected in the number of votes we poll in the rural areas. We have everything to gain provided we do the necessary spade work. And who knows—the success or failure of the Labour Party in the next Election will very likely depend upon constituencies like Bodmin.

We were not beaten here or elsewhere on matters of policy. We were not beaten at the poll because we as individuals were not sufficiently capable of expounding the case for a People's Socialism. Our Conservative opponents relied very little on policy, they relied almost entirely upon a series of wild promises which bore no relation to the actual times and situations. We were beaten because we were not well enough organised and because we were not able to break down the traditional political outlook of the majority of countrymen.

The major part of an election success is bound up with organisation. By organisation I mean getting one's point of view to the greatest number of people—and that is not easy with rural constituencies that are often forty miles across. In Bodmin Division we held five and six meetings a night for five weeks, and then we did not get to a half of the places that we would have liked to. But in every hamlet there

was a Tory agent—it was this efficiency that gained the victory. It was the simple fact of the truth of the statement that if you tell a lie to enough people enough times they will eventually believe it. We had four speakers, they had twenty. In the past five years we had spent some odd pounds on propaganda in the Constituency, whereas the Tory Party, with their full-time agents and clerical staff and their Constitutional Clubs had spent into the thousands each year.

It is a marvel that we, in the rural areas, did so well.

The Conservative tradition is accepted without question in rural areas. It matters little what the past did or did not do for the rural worker, it matters very little what the present state of affairs is like, a section of the rural vote is a conservative vote. It is a countryman's nature to change his opinions but slowly, and rightly so, but we have to tackle in many cases fears and misgivings that remind one not of the twentieth century but of feudal days. In an area which still abounds with its estates and gentry and squires, it is not uncommon to come across the tenant farmer who would like to vote Labour but cannot 'in case the landlord should find out', and it is tragic to realise how many working men fear to do other than vote the way 'Master says'.

In the last six months we have made rapid strides, and our organisation has improved beyond recognition. Our financial position is still weak, but infinitely stronger than it was, and surely we have a greater belief in our cause than ever before. We can win these rural seats if we get on with the spade work now. It would greatly encourage many of the rural pioneers if some of the industrial areas with their huge majorities adopted some of the rural areas and assisted them with money, speakers, and organisers.

For I believe that the success or failure of the Labour Party at the next election—whenever it may be—is going to depend on areas like ours. It concerns all members of the Labour Party whatever our constituency and whatever our M.P.s majority or otherwise.

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